Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1612 - July 4, 2008

Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1612 with a release date of Friday, July 4th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The numbers are in and ham radio is growing once again. Also, China's hams stand down from their post earthquake communications effort and 17 year old Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, is named 208 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Learn all about her on this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1612 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO HONORS: EMILY STEWART, KC0PTL, NAMED 2008 ARNEWSLINE YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

A 17 year old from Leavenworth, Kansas, with interests as diverse as astronomy, pharmacy and public service theough amateur radio has been named as the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Mark Abramovich, NT3V, who happens to chair the award committee is here with the story of Emily Stewart, KC0PTL.

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"This is really, really awesome. I'm really shocked!"

Those the words of the 2008 Young Ham of the Year, Emily Stewart after learning at the end of a finalist telephone interview that she had been chosen from among more than two dozen nominees for the prestigious award.

And, there is more. "I feel really, really honored," Emily says. "I think, oh, man. This is like such an awesome opportunity for, I don't know.

"I was talking with my dad about it and he said, you know, 'How would you feel if you won it?

"And I told him: Well, it would be because it would be a great opportunity to show kids that like even though people in the general public may not know what it is, if you work hard with radio and if you make a true commitment to it and if you take it and run with it that you really can get recognized for your achievements."

Emily is the daughter of Mike and Sharon Stewart. Mike is K0MDS. She is heading into her senior year at Leavenworth High School where she's a member of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and is a copy editor for the school yearbook.

Emily is an only child and says she has lived in Kansas for eight years. Prior to that, home was Germany where her father was serving in the military. She credits her dad for sparking interest in amateur radio when they moved back to the United States.

"I thought it was really cool when he started talking to people overseas in

Europe," Emily recalls. "And, Germany was still kind of home to me so when he started talking to people in Germany I said I wanted to do that too."

Emily earned her Technician license in August 2003. Emily says she was so excited about her new hobby that she wanted to share it with others and made presentations at school during her sixth-and seventh-grade years. That led to getting active in her local radio club and even contributing articles to the club newsletter. Emily's activity also led to her an appointment as the first Assistant Section Manager for Youth in the Kansas section, a job she has held since 2006.

She upgraded to General in April 2007. Last August, while attending the Kansas state convention, Emily asked how many had persuaded their children or grandchildren to get involved in amateur radio. The slim response of the attendees led her and Brian Short, KC0BS to develop the Kansas Legacy Project. The purpose: Encouraging hams to get the younger members of their families to get a ham license and get involved. The project has netted good results in the Kansas Metro area, including one of the youngest hams in the region to be licensed - 7-year-old Lucie Goodhart, KD0DMO, who took a license class with her dad and passed her Technician test last March.

Emily's path has also crossed that of another former Young Ham of the Year, Andrea Hartlage KG4IUM at the Dayton Hamvention where she helped run the youth lounge and ran the youth dinner for young hams. But Emily says her other passion is public service and storm spotting.

"My dad would sometimes take me out with him to go storm spotting and I decided that I wanted to have some training so I took a couple of online courses in emergency communications, " Emily says. "And, either I will go out with my dad when we get called out to do some storm chasing.

"Or I will stay at home and do spotting from home just in case something really nasty does happen then that way I'm home with my mom."

Emily says she also enjoys checking out the satellites: "I really like listening to satellite communications," Emily says. "We have this little satellite antenna and we use a program to track the satellites.

"And we follow the satellite with the antenna and listen to what people are talking to and who they're talking to and where they're from.

"And, we heard all the way from California. And that's one of my favorite things to do.

"I also really like packet. It's pretty cool."

Emily is a member of the Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club and the American Radio Relay League. She's also a regular participant in Field Day, Kids Days and QRP events.

Emily was nominated by Susan Backs KC0JCR, XYL of Paul Backs KC0JCQ, Leavenworth's Emergency Coordinator for ARES activities. Susan summarizes Emily this way:

"Her leadership, her outreach, technical and public service achievements mark her as an outstanding example to other young amateurs."

The Young Ham of the Year Award Committee wholeheartedly agreed.

Congratulations, Emily, from all of us.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz NT3V, chairman of the Young Ham of the Year Committee, reporting from Philadelphia.

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Please join us in congratulating Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, on being named the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year (ARNewsline(tm))

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HAM RADIO STATES: THE LATEST NUMBERS FROM K3UD

According to George Mc Couch, K3UD, it looks like the overall number of licensed radio amateurs numbers have increased by 873 from April through June 2008.

George says that the Technician and Technician Plus category had large increases while General had a smaller increase. On the downside, Novice license holders declined by 299 and Advanced declined by 2,134.

Further breaking down the numbers, George says that the Technician license had gains of 1,856 over the reporting period and is still the most popular license for newcomers. He says that it is continuing to make good gains over the last 3 quarters. However, it also seems that the large movement from hams upgrading to General has slowed to trickle over the last 9 months.

On the other hand K3UD says that we are seeing very good movement in upgrading to the highest class with increases of 1,447 hams earning the Extra Class. He says that this increase about matched the last quarter in terms of growth.

George says that his figures are based on a comparison of two snapshots of the numbers taken at two different times. He says that the numbers do change every day, sometimes increasing and sometimes decreasing. He say that he always uses the last day of previous reporting period and the last day of the present reporting period as his points in time.

K3UD unofficially took over reporting ham radio license statistics at about the same time that Fred Maia stopped publishing his W5YI Report newsletter. George provides a truly valuable service to the nations ham radio community. You can see his actual figures on the news pages at www.qrz.com. (K3UD, QRZ.com)

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RESCUE RADIO: CHINA'S HAMS STAND DOWN FROM QUAKE COMMUNICATIONS

The emergency communications provided by China's radio amateurs in the aftermath of the devastating magnitude 8 Sichuan earthquake has now ended, although some remain on standby for rapid re-activation if needed. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has a wrap up on this great ham radio humanitarian ham radio

effort:

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IARU Region 3 Chinese Radio Sports Association disaster communication liaison Fan Bin BA1RB reports that several hundred hams took part to help the disaster recovery and relief efforts.

This began almost immediately after the huge ï¿½quake on the 12th of May and it continued through until the 13th of June.

A number of radio amateurs traveled into the epicentre area, a difficult task due to earthquake damaged roads, to set up communications.

In the early days long distance telephone lines were either cut or congested and this is where amateur radio HF links including one in the provincial city of Chengdu to give the Red Cross a link to Beijing.

VHF and UHF repeaters were in heavy use, both those which survived the quake and others pressed into service to provide much needed local communications including front line rescue and recovery activity.

Amateur radio was used to provide coordinating communications for cars that were used to ferry supplies and transport the wounded immediately after the quake.

Amateur radio operators across the country made donations of equipment and supplies and the CRSA thanks them and all international radio societies and individuals for the support given.

The CRSA has produced a powerpoint slide presentation to give an overview of the role emergency communications provided during the disaster, and what it proposes for the future.

The slide show was presented at the fourth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference in Friedrichshafen, Germany, by the IARU Region 3 Chairman, Michael Owen VK3KI.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman of the IARU Region 3 Emergency Communications Committee.

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As we reported last week, China's radio and television networks have heaped praise on that nations amateur radio community for their life saving post earthquake effort. (VK3PC)

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BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Pikes Peak FM Association repeaters serving Colorado Springs, Colorado.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH COALITION GROWS

The United State Department of Homeland Security has announced that more than 1,200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition.

Sponsored by the department's Ready Campaign, National Preparedness Month was created to help to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses, and communities on the issue of emergency readiness.

Launched in 2003 in partnership with The Advertising Council, the Ready campaign is designed to educate and empower Americans. This, to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

This past February marked the Ready Campaign's fifth year at the
 Department
of Homeland Security. For more information on it and on National Preparedness Month, please visit www dot ready dot gov on the World Wide Web. (DHS Release)

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RESCUE RADIO: FIELD DAY PLANE CRASH AND FIRE IN NEVADA

Members of the Frontier Amateur Radio Society and guest hams operating the N7V Field Day station on Mt. Charleston, Nevada likely will not receive any bonus points for what they experienced. But it was a real-life lesson in why we do Field Day in the first place.

Just hours after Field Day began last Saturday, in a canyon near the station site a singe engine Piper Cherokee en route to California, crashed. All for people on board were killed.   The crash sparked a fire, which quickly spread in the wilderness area. Neither crash site nor the flames were visible at the nearby Toiyabe National Forest campground where N7V was on air.

Soon the N7V operators and other campers began receiving conflicting information as to whether they had to evacuate. With spotty cell phone coverage in the national forest, ham radio was the quickest way to ascertain whether everyone needed to leave. .

Field Day operations were suspended as Steve Herman, W7VOA, contacted Dudley Emer, KK7IF on two meters. He telephoned the park service emergency operator to get more information. At the ame time, John Bigley, N7UR, headed down the mountain to get direct word from police. The remaining hams and campers began packing, preparing for a quick departure in case they had to make a quick retreat. But word soon reached them that the evacuation order had been lifted. Operations resumed for N7V after the equipment was connected for a second time.

And heres the kicker. Steve Herman, W7VOA, is an international newsman. He also holds the call VU3USJ and currently lives in New Delhi, India. He was on a trip home when this incident occurred. (W7VOA)

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RADIO LAW: FCC PROPOSES CREATING FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS NATIONWIDE

Free high speed Internet for all. The FCC has released a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in docket item FCC 08-158. One that proposes public access to free, nationwide, high-speed wireless broadband Internet services using a portion of the winning bidder's network for the 2.1 GHz Advanced Wireless Services or A-W-S spectrum. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

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The FCC's June 20th Further Notice of Rule Making proposes requiring the licensee for the 2155 to 2180 MHz spectrum to provide using up to 25 percent of its wireless network capacity free. It would be a two-way broadband Internet service at engineered data rates of at least 768 kilpbits per second downstream.

An additional obligation associated with the licensee's free broadband service would include a requirement to provide a network-based filtering mechanism for the free Internet service. This, in order to protect children and families from unwanted content. There would also be a requirement that the network would allow for the use of open devices.

The build-out requirements for the licensee, as proposed, would be to provide signal coverage and offer service to at least 50 percent of the total population of the U.S. within four years. It would also have to reach at least 95 percent of the U.S. population by the end of the 10-year license term.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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The Notice also proposes permitting both downlink and uplink transmissions throughout the entire 2155 to 2180 MHz band. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCASTER ON EMERGENCY FREQUENCY DINGED $18000

The FCC has issued a Forfeiture Order in the amount of $18,000 to someone identified only as a John Doe. This for what the Commission terms as a willful and repeated violation of Sections 301 and 325 of the Communications Act involving the operation of radio transmission equipment without a license in Largo, Florida. He or she is also accused of making these transmissions on the International Distress, Safety and Calling Channel l3 and of the transmission of false signals of distress.

Back on April 30th the Commission's Tampa Office of the Enforcement Bureau

issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $18,000 to the unidentified alleged offender. The FCC says that this John Doe has not filed a response. So based on the information before it, the FCC in a June 26th action affirmed its earlier forfeiture order. And as in other cases, our John Doe was given the customary 30 days from the June 30th the release of the order to pay or to file an appeal.

Why the FCC is withholding the actual name of the alleged offender has not been stated, but doing so is usually the case when a minor is involved or there are other extenuating circumstances. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC TO NJ HAM - STAY OF THAT REPEATER

The FCC has issued a Warning Letter to William G. Aber, Sr., N2AJI, that in essence orders him to stay off of a local New Jersey repeater. This after he allegedly failed to heed the written request of the control operator of the 449.875 MHz KC2JPP repeater to refrain from use of the machine.

According to the FCC, that letter was issued to Aber as a result of his failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee or control operators of the repeater system for its users. The FCC says that Aber was previously requested verbally to refrain from using the system, but that he apparently ignored both verbal and written requests and that he refused delivery of the letter.

In its June 11th Warning Notice to Aber, the FCC says that it expects him to abide by the request to stay off the KC2JPP system and any other such request by a repeater licensee, control operator or trustee. If he uses the repeater again after receipt of its warning letter, that the FCC will initiate enforcement action against your license, which may include revocation, a fine or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which he may operate. Fines normally range from $7,500 to $10,000. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: KEEP THE COAL OFF 2 METERS

The FCC has issued a Warning Notice to the Gateway Coal Mine of Coulterville, Illinois. This, after receiving a complaint that the company had been using unlicensed radio equipment operating on 146.400 MHz.

In its June 26th letter to Gateway Coal Mine, the FCC said that 146.400 MHz is an Amateur Radio Service frequency, not a business or public safety frequency. It advised the company that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications and will subject its owners to a fine or imprisonment, as well as an seizure of any non-certified radio transmitting equipment. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES FACILITIES PROVIDER $10000

The FCC has affirmed a $10,000 fine issued earlier to to Frank Rodriguez of Patterson, New Jersey. This, for willfully and repeatedly

violating Section 301 of the Communications Act by providing services and facilities
incidental to the operation of an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 90.5 MHz.

Back this past April 9th, the Commission's New York Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 to Rodriguez. This, after the FCC found an unlicensed station not under Rodriguez ownership but operating from his property.

Now in its June 30th release, the FCC says that to date that Rodriguez has not filed a response to the proposed fine. Therefore, based on the information before it ,the Commission had now affirmed the forfeiture and given Rodriguez the usual 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: 200TH LIGHHTHOUSE REGISTERS FOR LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

The 200th lighthouse to register for this summers International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is GB4KAY, the Kay Kendall Memorial Lighthouse, at Yorkshire, in the U-K. Built in the early 1890's due to a large number of shipwrecks nearby, it was later named in memory of the glamorous 1950s actress Kay Kendall who was born in the town.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is conducted annually by the Ayr Radio Club of Scotland. The webmaster of its official website at WWW.ILLW.NET is Kevin Mulchay VK2CE. He says it's shaping up to be a big year and he would not be surprised if registrations topped 400 before the event gets underway (VK3PC)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: INDIA TO HAVE LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVE LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

The first Indian lighthouse has also registered for International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Bangalore Amateur Radio Club Secretary, Lion Ajoy, VU2JHM, says permission has been received to activate a lighthouse in southern India. A callsign is pending but it will be activated from the Indian Independence Day of the 15th of August through to the 18th which happens to include the International Lighthouse Weekend. (VK3PC)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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CHANGING OF THE GUARD: STEREO TV INVENTOR CARL EILERS - SK

The electronic engineer who helped develop production of high-fidelity stereo sound over the airwaves has died. 83 year old Carl G. Eilers, Friday at his home in River Forest, Illinois, on June 26th of an apparent of a heart attack.

A 50-year employee of Zenith Electronics, Eilers joined Zenith in 1948 as an engineer in the research department working on a subscription television system called Phonevision. In 1977, he became manager of research and development and led the team that in 1961developed FM stereo broadcasting. Eilers was also co-developer of another key industry standard known as MTS or multi-channel television sound for stereo TV. Zenith's MTS system was adopted by the industry in 1984.

Eilers also worked on development of remote controls, laser-disc recording and supplemental audio programming. He also contributed significantly to high-definition television and was granted 21 U.S. patents.

Eilers retired in 1997 but returned as a consultant for the company, which is based in the Chicago suburb of Lincolnshire. He is survived by his wife of Sandra; his son John and a daughter Janet Ames. (Published reports)

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PUBLIC SERVICE: SBE NEEDS RF VOLUNTEERS AT THE DNC

Its not exactly amateur radio but hams are the ones with the skill to help. This, as the Denver Colorado chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers puts out a call for skilled radio frequency volunteers for the upcoming Democratic National Convention. Amateur Radio Newsline's Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, has the details:

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According to the June 13th issue of TV Technology Magazine, broadcast engineering leaders in Denver are looking for volunteers to assist with wireless coordination and enforcement at the convention. Qualifications are knowledge of R F and broadcasting. Tasks will include meeting radio and TV crews and checking in their wireless equipment, monitoring for interference and evidence of non-coordinated equipment, and resolving problems. Test gear will be available, and the organizers hope to have their own 450 MHz channel for communication.

If you think that this sounds a lot like what ham radio coordinators do to keep repeaters on the amateur bands from interfering with one another, you are right. More information on how to volunteer is available at www.tvtechnology.com/pages/s.0018/t.13999.html

I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU.

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As far as we know this is a non-partisan volunteer effort. The Society of Broadcast Engineers is not endorsing any party or candidate by this

action. Its just providing solid R-F engineering practices to both conventions. (TV Technology, KN4AQ, WB9QZB,)

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RADIO IN SPACE: SATELLITE INTERFERENCE GROWING

The problem of interference to the satellite signals of broadcasters and other space relay communications is getting worse. So says a high ranking executive of the satellite transmission company Intelsat.

According to a report carried by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, Khalid Chaudhry, Intelsat's Vice President of network operations recently made the comments during a meeting of the World Broadcasting Unions International Satellite Operations Group at in Atlanta. He said that interference is coming in all shapes and sizes, and the problem is becoming more critical because of global demand for the Internet, including services for ships and aircraft.

The account of Chaudhry's remark also quotes him as saying that while most interference is not intentional, a small amount is deliberate, some of it is possibly politically motivated. (RW)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FINAL CALL FOR COLLOQUIUM PRESENTERS

AMSAT U K has issued its final call for speakers and papers for its 23rd Space Colloquium. This event is slated to be held at the University of Surrey in Guildford, England, from Friday July 25th to Sunday July 27th. Offers of talks should be submitted as soon as possible. The final date for full documents to be received is July 16th in order that the printed "Proceedings" document be available to participants.

Submissions should be sent only to G4DPZ, by e-mail to david dot johnson at blackepper dot co dot uk mor via reguular mail to his address in Q-R-Zed dot com. Full details of this and previous events can be found on-line at www.uk.amsat.org/Colloquium (AMSAT-UK)

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DX

In DX, word that PE9PE will be operating from SI9AM, which is the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Amateur Radio Society in Ragunda, Sweden. This, through July 11th. Listen out for him on SSB on 1.840, 3.760, 7060, 14.210, 18.160, 21.310, 24.960 and 28.510 MHz. For US Stations he will announce the Q-S-X frequency on 40 meters and when needed on 75 and 80 meters. More info including QSL routes is on-line at www.si9am.se.

DL7DF and a team of operators will be active as portable A25 from Botswana. This, between September 23rd and October 6th. The group plans to have several stations on the air on 160 through 10 meters using CW and SSB. One station will be exclusively dedicated to RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via DL7DF, either direct or by the DARC Bureau.

Lastly, ON7YK will be active from Gambia as C56YK between October 13th and November 9th. Operation will be on 80 through 10 meters and perhaps 160 meters as well. Modes announced are CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. This will be a holiday style operation. For more details and updates visit the www.on7yk.net

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: SOME THANK YOU'S FROM US TO YOU

And finally this week:

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I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ with some thank-you's for supporters of Newsline.

First a huge one to the awesome Anchorage Amateur Radio Club and their continuing support of Newsline. Just a reminder that their big 2008 Hamfest and convention will be held August 1st through the 4th. It will be an official ARRL convention this year, celebrating the 50th year of Alaska statehood. Well have more on this in coming weeks, or you can check their website at akhamfest.com

Its been a while since we've done these thank-yous, so we have to go back to January of 2007. We heard from:

The Greensboro, NC Amateur Radio Association, W4GSO; Peter Norloff, KG4OJT of Oakton, VA; Monthly contributor Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH; The Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team of Kalamazoo; The Indianapolis Repeater Association; Frank Gassmere, K9BWQ in Crestwood, IL; J. Steven Blaisdell, W0PER in Englewood, CO; The Superstition ARC in Mesa, AZ; Monthly contributors William Walters, WA2IBM, and Scott Hensley of the Area Communications Team, both in San Jose, CA and the South Orange Amateur Radio Association in Mission Viejo

Via PayPal there was Douglas Gilbert, WD6CZH and The Zerox ARC in El Segundo, CA; Andrew Engle in Saint Peters, MO; Matt Kraner, K8MAT, in Canton OH; Todd Champion in Champlin, MN; Sigtomics and Todd Siglin, WA2LTD in Vestal, NY; Murray Hunt, KB3LZV of Frederick, MD; Randy Dorman of Hampstead, MD; Mark McCormick, N4RK of Woodstock, IL; Christopher Spacone; Jimmy Reynolds, Jr. of Morristown, NJ; Brian Levy in Tehachapi, CA; Dennis Hardy in Richfield, MN; Fred Bader, K3CSX of Gaithersburg, MD and Bill at Good Fortune Advisory, Woodland, CA.

Well have more thank-yous in upcoming weeks. Im Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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Thanks Andy. (ARNewsline(tm) Support Fund)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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